FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Dialogue Postponement — The Lebanese Government has decided to postpone the National Dialogue Committee meeting scheduled for 20 October and will hold intensive contacts to set a new date and venue for the talks, Beirut radio reported. According to the radio, the announcement followed a declaration by the National Salvation Front (NSF) that it would boycott the meeting because of reservations over security arrangements at Beirut airport, the proposed venue. At a press conference in Al-Mukhtarah reported by Damascus radio, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt called the airport unsafe and proposed that the talks be held abroad, suggesting Cyprus, Tunis, Geneva, or a Greek ship as possible locations. Junblatt said the Lebanese Government should have obtained the approval of all the conferees before announcing the venue of the meeting and addressing invitations.

Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami likewise announced that the northern NSF leaders would not attend the meeting at Beirut airport and called on the government to consult with all parties to arrange another venue, according to remarks broadcast by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon. Karami made his statement after holding talks with Walid Junblatt's envoy Marwan Hamadah, who also met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah, the radio noted.

In another development, the Security Arrangements Committee did not hold its scheduled meeting on 19 October because the NSF representative failed to arrive, Beirut radio reported.

Military/Security Situation — Two Marines and a Lebanese security guard were wounded in Beirut when a carbomb exploded near a U.S. patrol in the vicinity of the Kuwaiti Embassy, Beirut radio reported. Lebanese Army positions in southern Beirut, Suq al-Gharb, and elsewhere were subjected to renewed sniper fire while clashes continued further south in the Al-Kharrub region, the radio said. A Lebanese soldier was killed in further fighting in southern Beirut early on 20 October, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, an Amal Movement official reaffirmed Amal's adherence to the cease-fire and blamed "other parties" for the cease-fire violations in the southern suburb, Beirut radio reported.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Central Committee has decided to hold a Fatah general congress in January and has chosen a preparatory committee which will begin its work forthwith, the Central Committee announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. A conference of Fatah regional offices will be convened early in November to submit proposals to the preparatory committee, the statement noted. The Central Committee strongly criticized the "putschist dissident movement against Fatah" but declared its earnest desire to halt the rival propaganda campaigns provided this includes "all the other sides, including certain Arab sides." The statement noted critically that the recent PLO mediation committee had called for an end to propaganda campaigns against Syria without referring to Syria's own propaganda campaigns against the PLO leadership. The Central Committee declared its commitment to prevent any inter-Palestinian or Arab-Palestinian fighting "except in self-defense." The statement, which was issued in Kuwait but was approved by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, denounced criticism of 'Arafat's role in the recent factional fighting in Tripoli, accusing certain Lebanese and Palestinian leaders of making judgments without knowing the facts.

The Central Committee also reaffirmed Fatah's rejection of the Reagan plan and the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and its adherence to PNC resolutions.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan* reported by KUNA, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf proposed a "democratic divorce" between the dissidents and the Fatah leadership, asserting that attempts to mediate the internal dispute have failed and that a political split would be better than the current bloodshed. Nevertheless, the dissidents are still welcome to participate in the Fatah general congress, Khalaf said, but if they refuse to take part they will be expelled from the movement. Khalaf accused the Syrian regime of planning to "liquidate" the PLO leadership.

Responding to Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA) General Commander Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra's rejection of 'Arafat's leadership, PLA commanders in Amman and Tunis denounced Al-Khadra's move while PLA commanders in Lebanon called on 'Arafat to dismiss Al-Khadra from his position as commander of the Hittin forces, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO and North Lebanon Voice of Palestine radios.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that a force comprised of the special airborne force, revolution guards, and Muslim peshmerga penetrated 30 km into Iraq in the northern zone, inflicting "considerable" casualties on Iraqi forces and destroying six bases. An Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian claims, according to INA.

An Iraqi Armed Forces communique transmitted by INA stated that at midnight on 19-20 October Iran launched an offensive aimed at Panjwin, in the northern zone. The communique said the Iraqi I Army Corps stopped the offensive short of its objective but also noted that the battle is continuing.

Iran

A Mojahedin-e Khalq communique issued in Paris, reported by the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio, stated that in recent fighting in Kordestan over 100 revolution guards were killed while government forces lost their foothold in the Sar Dasht region.

Reaction to Jordanian RDF

Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, stated that he had no objection to the United States helping Jordan form a rapid deployment force, on the condition that Jordan come to an agreement or at least begin negotiations to improve relations with Israel. Meanwhile, Damascus radio cited Israeli radio as stressing that the U.S. Administration "insists" on forming a Jordanian military force for deployment in the Gulf region.

A commentary by Tehran radio's Arabic service asserted that the U.S. goal behind the formation of the force is to "enclose the Islamic region" in a "military belt" starting in Lebanon and ending in Oman in order to ensure its capability for rapid "interference" in the Gulf region. Similarly, the Kuwaiti *Al-Anba'*, cited by KUNA, denounced Washington's announcement of a special budget for the force.

Gulf States

The UAE newspapers *Al-Fajr* and *Al-Wadah* "warned against" Secretary of State Shultz' statements on navigation in the Gulf, together with the resulting political and economic arrangements, according to WAM.

Israel

Attacking government financial policy under Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and former Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, opposition MK's presented motions of no confidence to the Knesset, where they were defeated by a vote of 61 to 54, Jerusalem and IDF radios reported. In an separate report, Jerusalem radio noted that Finance Ministry Director General Professor 'Ezra Sadan resigned but was asked to remain in office for another 3 months.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 204 *20 October 1983*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INDIA

Gandhi Comments on Upcoming Commonwealth Summit ..... E 1
Gandhi Chairs Congress-I Meeting in Bombay 19 Oct ..... E 1
Prime Minister's Address ..... E 1
Punjab 'Extremists' Reportedly Threaten Vajpayee ..... E 2
Farooq Abdullah Assures Center; Arrests Reported ..... E 2
Punjab Police Search Amritsar District for Arms ..... E 2
Jammu Strike Over Cricket Incident 'Almost Total' ..... E 2
Government Takes Over 13 Bombay Textile Mills ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Operations Launched Against 'Lawless Elements' ..... F 1
Lahore Lawyer Groups Claim 'Nothing To Do With MRD' ..... F 1
Commentator Reiterates Peaceful Nuclear Policy ..... F 1
MASHRIQ Stresses Neutrality in Iran-Iraq War *[12 Oct]* ..... F 2
President Meets With Comoran Foreign Minister ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

Karachi: Soviets Unknowingly Bombard Own Troops ..... G 1

BANGLADESH

Ershad Set To Meet With Reagan 25 October ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

State of Emergency Reportedly Extended *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
Conference Discusses Problems Faced by North ..... G 1

IRAN

Val-Fajr IV Operation Launched 19 October ..... I 1
Communique Details Guerrilla Operations Inside Iraq ..... I 1
'Counterrevolutionaries' Crushed, Border Areas Captured ..... I 1
Free Voice of Iran on Fighting ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,495 ..... I 2
Commentary Sees Jordanian Role in Gulf Operations ..... I 2
Cabinet Discusses Education, Guards Corps Allocation ..... I 3
Prime Minister Arrives in Rasht on Inspection Tour ..... I 3
Meeting With Gilan Province Officials ..... I 3
Bushehr Governor Reports to President 18 October ..... I 4
Seda-ye Iran Radio Cites Clash in Rezvanshahr ..... I 4
Defacing of Khomeyni Photographs Reported *[Seda-ye Iran]* ..... I 4
East Azarbayjan Sends Soldiers to Fronts ..... I 4
100 'Revolutionary Muslims' Reported Executed in Iraq ..... I 4
Afghan Mujahidin Cut Off Major Supply Route ..... I 5

Gandhi Comments on Upcoming Commonwealth Summit

BK191445 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The prime minister said that apart from the arms race, the widening gap between the rich and the poor nations is threatening world peace. In an interview to the London *Times* published today, Mrs Gandhi expressed the hope that this would be one of the topics for discussion at the Commonwealth summit to be held in New Delhi next month. She said: There are many matters concerning the Commonwealth as a whole, and to discuss them and to arrive at a consensus will be a worthwhile achievement.

Mrs Gandhi, however, pointed out that such meetings are not meant to achieve any kind of dramatic results; but they are get-togethers in a friendly, informal atmosphere, where issues could be discussed.

The Commonwealth leaders meeting next month will discuss, among other things, the document forwarded by the Commonwealth finance ministers meeting held in Trinidad last month. The document suggests a need for an international monetary conference to arrive at a new order of world financial and economic dealings.

Gandhi Chairs Congress-I Meeting in Bombay 19 Oct

BK191255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The Congress-I working committee met in Bombay today under the chairmanship of the party president, Mrs Gandhi. The session lasted more than 2 and 1/2 hours. Most of the time was devoted to the draft resolution on the political situation in the country. The draft resolution finalized by the working committee will be placed before the All India Congress Committee-I session beginning tomorrow.

Prime Minister's Address

BK200924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mrs Gandhi, has called upon the people to close their ranks and work for national unity and reconstruction. She was addressing the 2-day All-India Congress Committee-I [AICC-I] session which began in Bombay this morning. Mrs Gandhi regretted that some elements, particularly in the opposition were creating an atmosphere of confrontation. In a democracy, opposition is essential, but it should act in a constructive and responsible manner. There may be differences on certain issues, but so far as national programs and the country's integrity and unity are concerned, we should sink our differences, join together, and work for the development of the country.

Mrs Gandhi expressed concern over the spate of communalism, casteism, provincialism, and linguism raising their heads at this critical juncture in the nation's life and cited the example of the recent Srinagar incident which followed the opposition conclave held earlier there. All patriotic elements should give a deep thought to these events, she added.

Referring to center-state relations, Mrs Gandhi said she believed in a strong center backed by strong states. The Constitution defines the powers of the states and the center very clearly, but there may be need for some adjustments for which the center is always ready. The appointment of the Sarkaria Commission is an indication of our desire to make such adjustments.

About Punjab, she said the agitation there is not only against the government, but it is also a feud between those who believed in progress and those who want to remain prisoners of the past. In secular India, we respect all religions.

Mrs Gandhi stressed the need for giving the minorities their due share. They should join the main stream of national development. She explained that it is only with this in view that she spoke for the minorities in the country. Her sympathies with minorities should not be misconstrued as a vested interest, she added.

Mrs Gandhi mentioned the progress made by the west in field of science and technology, and said unless we make very dynamic efforts, it will be difficult to protect our hard-won freedom.

About the 20-point program, she said it has been given a new direction, but it has not been implemented at a speed with which we would have liked it to be executed. Mrs Gandhi also conveyed her sympathy to the families who suffered because of natural calamities like drought, floods, and cyclones.

The delegates paid homage to the memory of Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Sheikh Abdullah, and others who died since the last AIICC-I session.

Welcoming the delegates, the chairman of the reception committee, Mr Vasant Dada Patil, deplored the separatist and communalist activities which, he said, are threatening the very integrity of the country.

Earlier, Mrs Gandhi hoisted the Congress-I flag and addressed the party workers.

In the political resolution moved by Mrs Mohsina Kidwai and seconded by Mr Karunakaran, the AICC-I condemned the violent incidents in Punjab, and said that a grave situation of tension and conflict has been created by the Akali Dal leadership and their allies. It urged the government to take strong measures to establish a climate of security in Punjab. The resolution further added that the ruling National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir has introduced certain dangerous trends in the recent assembly elections which have been the cause of concern to all democratic forces. The resolution noticed that the normalcy is fast returning in the State of Assam, and pointed out that the foreigners issue must be solved in an atmosphere of peace.

Referring to the opposition parties, the resolution says that the opposition is aiming at weakening the national fabric through a

shortsighted, negative approach and opportunism. The Congress-I expressed its serious concern over the distorted manner in which the opposition parties have raised issues about center-state relations.

The resolution deplored the crimes against women, particularly dowry deaths.

Punjab 'Extremists' Reportedly Threaten Vajpayee
BK191609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr L.K. Advani, has written to the home minister, saying that threats have been held out to the life of his party president, Mr Vajpayee, by extremists in Punjab. Mr Advani has urged Mr P.C. Sethi to ensure adequate security arrangements for Mr Vajpayee.

Farooq Abdullah Assures Center; Arrests Reported
BK200306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has assured the center that it is taking steps to deal firmly with secessionist and communal elements responsible for the recent incidents in the state. In a reply to a letter from the union home minister, Mr Sethi, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has explained the measures being taken in this regard. According to agency reports, a large number of antisocial elements have been arrested in different parts of the state in connection with the incidents.

Punjab Police Search Amritsar District for Arms
BK200303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Punjab police yesterday carried out combing operations in some villages of Amritsar District in search of illicit arms and undesirable elements who are suspected to be involved in incidents of violence in the area. According to the inspector general of police for law and order, Mr P.S. Bhinder, the police have recovered some arms and ammunition and have also made some arrests. However, the details, he said, are still awaited. Central Reserve Police and Border Security Force assisted the state police in the operations.

Jammu Strike Over Cricket Incident 'Almost Total'
BK191639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] In Jammu, a bundh [strike] was observed today to protest against the unruly happening during the 1-day cricket match at Srinagar between India and the West Indies on the 13th of this month. The call for the bundh was given by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP].

Our Jammu correspondent reports that the bundh was almost total in many places. Shops, business establishments, and cinema houses were closed.

An official spokesman said that except for some minor clashes, the bundh passed off peacefully. He said that the police had to use tear gas in the city chowk [bazaar] area to disperse a stone throwing mob, 20 policemen and some civilians were injured.

The BJP secretary, Mr R.S. Dey, talking to newsmen in Jammu, demanded an immediate ban on the Jamait-i-Islami and Jamait-i-Tulba for their alleged antinational activity.

The president of the Jamait-ulema-i-Hind, Maulana Asad Madani, member of parliament, has condemned the behavior of a section of the crowd toward the Indian cricket team. He [words indistinct] the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, to deal with the situation firmly.

Government Takes Over 13 Bombay Textile Mills
BK191149 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The center took over 13 closed or partially working cotton textile mills of Bombay early this morning. Our Bombay correspondent reports that four of these sick mills did not reopen even after the 18-month-long strike in the city ended a few months ago. The other mills did not take back majority of the employees after the strike. According to official sources, 75,000 workers were made jobless because of the sick mills.

Welcoming the takeover of the sick mills, the All-India Congress Committee-I general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, told newsmen in Bombay that it had become necessary because the money invested in them belonged to the government. Mr Y.B. Chavan, Congress-I MP, and Mr Ram Mahadik, state party leader, also welcomed the takeover.

Operations Launched Against 'Lawless Elements'

BK191741 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate, Nawabshah, today says operations to eliminate concentration of dacoits [bandits] and lawless elements in parts of Nawabshah District has been launched by law enforcing agencies. Special armed groups of police and miltia accompanied by a magistrate attacked the hideouts of lawless elements this morning.

The press note says the village of (Lusk) on the bank of the River Indus near Qazi Ahmad was encircled by the law enforcing agencies during the night. At dawn, the magistrate accompanying the police party called upon all armed persons to come out and surrender. In reply, persons from the village opened fire on the party, wounding four persons. The law enforcing agencies used tear gas in the first instance. Later, they were forced to open fire with a due resistance, as a result of which one armed civilian was killed and four wounded.

The press note further says search of the village was started and as of reports received so far 28 armed persons and 70 others have been arrested, and recovery of weapons, including 28 rifles and shotguns and a large quantity of ammunition, has been made. The identification of those arrested is in progress.

Lahore Lawyer Groups Claim 'Nothing To Do With MRD'

BK191135 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] A group of senior lawyers in Lahore has slated as mischievous the call to the legal community by the so-called National Coordination Committee of Lawyers for strikes, processions, and meetings today in support of the self-styled Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD].

A leading lawyer of Lahore, Mr Mohammad Abdullah Khan Dogar, addressing a press conference on behalf of the group formed at the behest of the majority of lawyers of Lahore and Muffasil areas, wanted to make it clear that they had nothing to do with the so-called MRD. Mr Dogar said the overhelming majority of lawyers would ignore the call, which, he was confident, was bound to fail. Mr Abdullah Khan Dogar pointed out that the legal community in general had (?unflinching) faith in the Islamic ideology.

In a press statement issued by Mr Niaz Mohammad Khan Lodi and signed by 38 lawyers, the lawyers of Islamic Forum, Sheikhopure, said they will not participate in the strike called by the lawyers coordination council. The statement said a majority of lawyers connected with the council were socialists and (?opposite)ideology of Pakistan.

Commentator Reiterates Peaceful Nuclear Policy

BK200440 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Mukhtar Zaman commentary]

[Text] The Soviet delegate, Vladimir Petrovskiy, while participating in the debate on disarmament in the United Nations, has (?seen) fit to repeat the oft-denied charge that Pakistan is likely to acquire nuclear weapons. Reports from the UN Headquarters say that this is the first time that the Soviet Union has specially said what the Western countries have been saying for many many years — and these Western countries are opposed to the Soviet Union and friendly to (?Israel). Delegates were unable to figure out why of all the countries the Soviet Union should repeat the lie dished out by their opponents for reasons of their own.

The statement was made by the Soviet delegate in the main committee of the General Assembly at the start of the debate on disarmament items. He talked of the possible acquisition of arms by Israel and South Africa and surprisingly enough made a pointed reference to Pakistan as a potential nuclear country.

The position of South Africa and Israel is clear. They themselves make no secret of their nuclear capability. The Western media has been repeating the lie that Pakistan was also planning to to acquire nuclear weapons. The Government of Pakistan has categorically and unequivocally denied dozens of times that Pakistan has no [as heard] intention of manufacturing the bomb. It has been explained that Pakistan is running short of energy: It does not have oil, it has very limited amount of coal and its hydroelectric capacity was unable to meet the growing requirements of energy. Pakistan's population is increasing. It is expected to keep alive its 85 million people, who are likely to reach the 100 million mark by the end of this century. To keep itself above water, Pakistan must expand its basic industrial potential and must produce more food for the growing millions. Pakistan has only one alternative, namely, to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Nuclear energy is the only answer to future development of industry and agriculture.

As a sovereign and independent country, Pakistan has every right to acquire the know-how for producing nuclear energy. It has no intention to produce or use nuclear weapons. It has made an offer to the International Atomic Energy Agency to make sure that neither Pakistan nor any other country is allowed to make the bomb. It has repeatedly called for making the South Asian region and the Indian Ocean a nuclear free zone.

With this attitude, none but the blind and the deaf would doubt Pakistan's credentials. Besides other things, it will be highly dangerous for Pakistan to make or use the bomb. It is a well known fact that after the nuclear blast its neighbor has attained the capacity to have the bomb. The northwest region is occupied by alien troops. It would be a mad man who would think of using the nuclear bomb while sitting in such a difficult situation and

hemmed in by dangerous weapons. Such a foolish adventure will be destructive for Pakistan. All logic leads to the conclusion that Pakistan will find the possession or manufacture of nuclear weapons a counterproductive and dangerous step. It must eschew such adventurism and it must try to live in peace without which its economic progress will come to a standstill. In spite of weighty arguments and denials by responsible spokesmen of Pakistan Government, some interested quarters keep on harping on the same tune. They have their own axe to grind. Whatever the differences of opinion on the Afghan issue, Pakistan believes that interstate relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan are normal and friendly. We are grateful for the assistance that Moscow has offered. This atmosphere need not be vitiated by unwarranted repetitions of Western propaganda. Pakistan wants to live in peace but with honor.

MASHRIQ Stresses Neutrality in Iran-Iraq War

GF192000 Karachi Mashriq in Urdu 12 Oct 83 P 3

[By political commentator Sharif Mohammad Khan]

[Excerpts] If the Islamic conference issues a decree or judgment in favor of Iran and against Iraq or vice versa, it will not end the war. It may fan the rift already existing in the Islamic world. It will serve no purpose if the Islamic world is divided into two camps, one in favor of Iraq and the other a supporter of Iran, which may ensue a clash between the two. This is neither a service to Islam nor to the Islamic world.

It is exactly for this reason that Pakistan has adopted strict neutrality in the dispute between Iran and Iraq; our other politicians, thinkers, and scholars should also adopt exactly the same attitude. Also, we should not do or write anything against Iran nor Iraq. Both of them are our friends and both of them are our brotherly countries. Our relations with each go back centuries and these relations are inviolable. Pakistan cannot sever or weaken its relations with either Iraq or Iran.

Pakistan adopted this attitude of neutrality after much thought. Iran wants Pakistan to openly condemn Iraq and dub it as an oppressive and an aggressive country, but Pakistan has never done this and will never do it. Similarly, Pakistan is asked that when all the Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Egypt are giving Iraq their material and moral support, then why does not Pakistan give Iraq at least its moral support if not material. They also ask Pakistan why it should support the Arab crusade against Iran. But Pakistan feels that this clash between Arabs and non-Arabs is not only against the interests of the Islamic world but it is also against the interests of the Third World.

Iran and Iraq are now both talking of closing the Persian Gulf. This talk is not good because it will not solve the problem; it might make it more complicated. The need of the moment is that the scholars of the Muslim countries should, through their writings and speeches, make both Iran and Iraq realize the urgent necessity for peace. Muslim blood is flowing, and something should be done to stop it. Both Iran and Iraq have admirable prestige in our eyes. We have great hopes for the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Iraq's military strength is for us an asset which should be used against Israel. Iraqi soldiers are the strongest soldiers in the Arab world and it befits them that if they have to fight, they should fight against Israel.

President Meets With Comoran Foreign Minister

BK191129 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The Comoros minister for foreign affairs, cooperation, and trade, Mr Said Kafe, met the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, at the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and delivered to him a letter from the president of his country. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and senior officials of the Foreign Office were also present. The Comoros minister reaffirmed his country's support to Pakistan on the Afghanistan problem.

Pakistan and Comoros have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. Pakistan's ambassador in Mauritius will be concurrently accredited to Comoros.

AFGHANISTAN

Karachi: Soviets Unknowingly Bombard Own Troops

BK191606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, Soviet Planes unknowingly heavily bombarded their own troops at (Santli) bridge, 60 km west of Qandahar City, following a severe attack by Afghan mujahidin on Qandahar City last week. After the bombing, Soviet Forces attacked a Qandahar-bound passenger bus and killed 40 people. Another report spoke of heavy loss of life following the bombing of Qandahar City by Soviet aircraft on 13 October.

Meanwhile, 10,000 former workers from the industrial organizations in Qonduz and Baghlan Provinces are reported to be unemployed.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Set To Meet With Reagan 25 October

BK181559 Dhaka BSS in English 0634 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] Dhaka Oct 18 (BSS) — The president of the Council of Ministers Lt Gen H.M. Ershad will meet President Ronald Reagan on October 25 at the Oval Office of the White House.

Gen Ershad leaves here Friday for an official visit to the United States of America.

Informing the newsmen yesterday at an informal gathering, a U.S. Embassy spokesman in Dhaka said the relations between the two countries are excellent, friendly and cordial and expressed the hope that Gen Ershad's forthcoming visit to the states will be successful.

The spokesman who was giving details of Gen. Ershad's visit to the states, said this would provide an opportunity for the leaders of both countries to exchange views. America values Bangladesh's independent and nonaligned foreign policy and appreciates the progress made in this country in the field of agriculture, the spokesman added. He said the two countries have no major bilateral problems.

Gen. Ershad will be the third head of government from Bangladesh to visit the USA and his (Ershad's) visit would be the longest one, the spokesman added. Gen. Ershad is scheduled to be back here on November 7 via Honolulu.

SRI LANKA

State of Emergency Reportedly Extended

BK181611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the state of emergency has been extended for another month. The emergency was imposed in the country 5 months ago to prevent ethnic violence. The emergency, declared after parliamentary and local elections in May, has been extended every month because of disturbed conditions.

Conference Discusses Problems Faced by North

BK191700 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] The roundtable conference called by President Jayewardene to discuss problems faced by the north was held at the presidential secretariat this afternoon. It was attended by the United National Party [UNP] and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna.

The United National Party was represented by its president, N.G.P. Panditharatne; the general secretary, Harsha Abeywardena; and the (?subtreasurer) and the district minister for Batticaloa, Mrs (Shar Parchanage). Those who represented the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna [MEP] were its secretary, the MP for Maharagama, Dinesh Gunewardene, Antony Perera, and [words indistinct]. Also present at the discussions were the president; the prime minister, and all ministers who are now in the island.

There were several items on the agenda. Leaders of the United National Party pledged full support to the government to safeguard the unity of Sri Lanka. In a separate statement to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] on the roundtable conference, Mr Harsha Abeywardena said that the UNP would give full support to the government to completely eradicate terrorism and he revealed that such a pledge was also given by the general secretary of the MEP.

Among the views expressed at today's discussions was the call for a parliamentary select committee to be appointed to study the problems of the north. Anyone will have the opportunity of expressing his ideas at this select committee. The government will consider the appointment of the select committee in the future.

The leader of the MEP, Dinesh Gunewardene, told the SLBC that the government would receive the full support of his party to safeguard the unity of the country. His opinion was that a conference attended by Maha Sangha [religious organizations], national leaders, and political parties should be convened for a comprehensive discussion on the problems of the north. Mr Gunewardene added that the president has said that a decision regarding his proposal would be taken after a discussion with the parties.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP], Lanka Sama Samaja Party, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka were invited for this roundtable conference. All these three parties did not attend the discussions. The leader of the SLFP, before leaving the island, has said that she expected the president's invitation. Representatives had also been named. According to political sources, they did not attend the conference because of a report published at the last minute in a certain newspaper and several other reasons which were unclear. Mr Ratnadesa Priyasenanaike, who had been named as a representative by the SLFP said that the party decided not to attend the conference

because until 1330 this afternoon he could not receive a reply to a letter sent to the president seeking clarifications on certain points.

In a letter to the president, the Communist Party of Sri Lanka said that it was her view that every effort should be made to convene a conference of all recognized political parties without exceptions and preconditions. It also stated that the party did not have sufficient time to discuss relevant matters because of the proscription.

The political observers say that the ban imposed on the Communist Party of Sri Lanka was lifted last week following an invitation extended to it. No leaders of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party were available to comment on why the party was not represented at the discussions.

Val-Fajr IV Operation Launched 19 October

LD201116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention; please pay attention. I have just received the following report:

Following their attacks on the positions of the counterrevolutionaries and the heavy blows inflicted at armed insurgents, the heroic fighters and powerful forces of Islam started Val-Fajr IV operations last night, with the holy codename of "O God, O God, O God," in the Baneh and Marivan region. Their aim is to cut off communications between the counterrevolutionaries and the Zionist enemy, to extensively destroy enemy forces in the operational zone, to remove the border towns of the Islamic homeland, especially Marivan, from the range of enemy fire, and to occupy important and strategic heights in this region.

So far, considerable losses and casualties have been inflicted on the forces of the Zionist regime of Iraq. Further and more precise reports will be brought to your attention as soon as we receive them.

Communique Details Guerrilla Operations Inside Iraq

LD191724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Communique issued 19 October by Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters — joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Offering our condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness 'Ali ibn al-Husayn, peace be upon him, to the lord of the era, may God the most exalted hasten his noble advent, and to the imam of the nation and the Islamic nation, a report on guerrilla operations carried out by the powerful forces of Islam is brought to the attention of the martyr-nurturing nation:

The powerful combatants of Islam, these lovers of pilgrimage to the holy shrine of His Holiness Aba 'Abdallah al-Husayn, peace be upon him, attacked the Zionist enemy in Iraqi territory on the evening of 18 October and dealt considerable blows at the them.

The combatants of Islam, consisting of the heroes of the special airborne force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, devotees of the revolution guards and the mobilization unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the heroic Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, penetrated 30 km deep inside Iraqi territory along the Val-Fajr II operational zone and attacked the (Sidekan) Garrison in Iraq. Considerable losses and casualties were inflicted on the defeated forces of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime.

During these victorious penetrating operations, the powerful combatants of Islam destroyed part of the (Sidekan) Garrison and completely destroyed six other enemy bases. The powerful combatants of Islam also destroyed two large ammunition dumps, an armored vehicle, a 122-mm gun, several heavy machineguns and several vehicles belonging to the enemy. In the early stages of the engagement, they forced the miserable enemy to flee the region.

During the operations, the combatants of Islam completely destroyed an enemy helicopter and damaged another one. More than 100 of the Zionist enemy were killed and a large number of them were wounded. The movement of enemy ambulances behind the operational zone continued for hours.

After the completion of these successful operations, the combatants of Islam, without having suffered any losses or casualties, returned to their bases safely.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed Ash-Shohada Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

'Counterrevolutionaries' Crushed, Border Areas Captured

LD201206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Communique No 1 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim nation of Iran: In the month of Moharram — the month of the victory of blood over sword — the followers of Husayn, with their strong arms, watched over by the mighty hand of God, crushed the bases of the criminal mercenaries and puppet counterrevolutionaries in the Sar Dasht region.

Relying on God's infinite strength, the forces of Islam, during an extensive operation in the Sar Dasht border region during the past 48 hours captured the strategic and important 2,250-m (Henimal) heights, the 2,350 m (Bakdak) heights, the 2,006 m (Homal) heights, the 200-m (Belis), the great heights of (Bikri), the (Rostamalan) mountain and the heights in the (Bazhal) plain, the (Dorimeri) heights, (Berik) mountain and (Koarhaf). These heights, which are situated in the Sar Dasht border regions, had been violated by the ungodly, who aggressed against the rights of the Muslim, Kurdish people, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution; as admitted by the miserable and traitorious counterrevolutionary leaders, they were considered as their lifeline. Now that they have lost these heights, they have begun to realize their fate, which is a disgraceful death and the end of their shameful lives in the dear, Islamic Kordestan.

In this operation, the combatants of Islam — comprising the brave personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the self-sacrificing guards and basij [mobilization unit] of the Guards Corps, Gendarmerie combatants and Muslim, Kurdish peshmergas — cleansed 18 villages, including (Aftmirza), (Yusofkan), (Banavireh), (Galaseyyed), (Jarrasid), (Shalmash), and (Beydar), from the filthy presence of puppet minigroups. During this victorious operation, which resulted in the killing or injuring of more than 150 counterrevolutionaries, a large enemy ammunition dump, containing assorted light and medium weapons, was captured by the forces of Islam.

Free Voice of Iran on Fighting

GF191830 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] During recent fighting in Kordestan, more than 100 Khomeyni revolution guards were killed and several Kurdish peshmerga fighters also lost their lives. The Free Voice of Iran correspondent quoting the Mojahedin-e Khalq in Paris reported that the Khomeyni forces using heavy weapons like [word indistinct] artillery and mortars recently have been mounting intensive offensives around Sar Dasht and Baneh against Kurdish villages and hideouts. These attacks have been bitterly resisted by the Kurdish peshmerga fighters and the popular resistance forces. Even now bitter fighting is continuing on Hermal Heights, in Sar Dasht, in (?Geraveh), and (Aluch) villages in the Baneh region.

According to a Mojahedin-e Khalq communique issued in Paris, Khomeyni forces have been repelled from (Geraveh) and have lost a foothold in the Sar Dasht region. They tried to use Jamalkeh as a base for the capture of Hermal Heights but failed. The heights today remain occupied by the Kurdish resistance forces.

According to the latest reports, in driving back the Khomeyni forces from the villages of (Geraveh) in the (Aluch) area in Baneh region, more than 100 revolution guards were killed. Several peshmerga fighters and several members of the Kordestan Democratic Party were also killed.

Our correspondent added that although the loss of life among the revolution guards has been heavy, the true figures of the dead among the Khomeyni forces and the resistance have not been received so far.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,495

LD191752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,495 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Details of defensive operations by the warriors of Islam, defending our Islamic homeland against the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors, are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots.

A sporadic exchange of artillery and other heavy weapons fire between our forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries continued yesterday on the Piranshah, Baneh, and Marivan fronts. The exchange of fire was more intense in the Darband sector. By pounding positions and bases of the enemy, the combatants of Islam inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. By dispatching patrol groups, the combatants of Islam monitored the movements and operations of the Saddamist forces.

A sporadic exchange of fire also continued on the border fronts of Bakhtaran. While continuing the task of consolidating their own positions, our warriors opened defensive fire and checked the movements, engineering activities, and patrol operations of the enemy. Thanks to the fire of our warriors on the enemy's defensive lines and units, more than 30 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded. One enemy truck was set ablaze and destroyed. On these fronts, the exchange of fire was more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar regions.

While continuing their defensive operations along the southern fronts of the country, the victorious combatants of Islam returned the heavy artillery fire of the Iraqi forces and silenced the Saddamists' fire. By dispatching patrol groups and erecting observation posts, the combatants of Islam monitored the movements of the Iraqi forces. By preventing the engineering activities and operations of the enemy forces, the combatants of Islam inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

In the course of exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the return fire of the combatants of Islam against the enemy's positions and fortifications on the other side of the Arvand Rud halted all operations by the Saddamist forces and destroyed more than eight enemy emplacements for heavy and light weapons. A number of servicemen using these weapons were killed.

At various intervals this morning, the Saddamist criminal mercenaries bombarded the cities of Marivan and Baneh and the suburbs of these two cities. As a result of this bombardment by the Saddamist criminals, 18 of our compatriots were martyred in Marivan and more than 30 were wounded.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under heavy artillery fire by the Iraqi forces, which resulted in the demolition of six shops and houses.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Commentary Sees Jordanian Role in Gulf Operations

GF191040 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The next stage of the U.S. military strategy in our Islamic region will be to use Jordanian forces in rapid deployment operations. This was reported in U.S. newspapers which divulged the practical steps the U.S. Government will undertake to attain this goal. After the U.S. forces train the Jordanian forces in order to raise their military efficiency to the standard that will enable them to execute the imperialist plans, these forces will be sent to the Gulf countries. This will be done after an agreement is concluded between these governments and the Jordanian Government.

This chapter of imperialist policy is part of the plan to enclose the Islamic region in a horrible military belt starting with Lebanon and ending with the U.S. bases in Oman and including the U.S. presence on Egyptian, Sudanese, and Somali territories. It seems that the this belt will allow the United States to ensure that its requirements for rapid deployment interference in the Persian Gulf region are met.

The U.S. forces, which are present in the vicinity of the Gulf region in various forms and types, have exceeded reasonable limits and have begun to jeopardize the status of the people in the region. Despite the geographic differences separating the units working in Lebanon, in Egypt, or in Oman, their bold goals confirm that they serve one issue— which is U.S. interests in the region. So wherever there are interests, we find out that these forces are present to protect them. This is how we interpret the departure of some U.S. fleet vessels from the coasts of Beirut to the coasts of the Persian Gulf.

There is an important question regarding the responsibility which will be shouldered by the Jordanian forces when the plan to merge them with the rapid deployment forces is executed. When we analyze the U.S. military mentality, we can conclude that the United States has set two stages for initiating its interference in the affairs of the region. This imperialist administration has adopted the policy of using the forces of any surrogate country to eliminate any dangers that might threaten U.S. interests in the region. This is considered a safer move from both the strategic and publicity aspects. The closer these forces are to the target,the more flexibility they may have since the interference of one Arab country in the affairs of another might not give rise to the suspicion that might arise over direct U.S. interference.

In the next stage, the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force will undertake to back and support these forces which will enter the battle on its behalf. In considering its choices, Washington could not have made a better choice than Jordan to shoulder the responsibilities of the first stage. This regime was selected for the following reasons:

1. To distract the Jordanian Army from its original mission, which is to defend the Islamic holy places by confronting the Zionist enemy.

2. The Jordanian Army's ability to comprehend the security problems of the Gulf countries. For long periods of time, this Army used to train the military forces of these countries.

3. The closeness of this Army to the targets. The most distant target does not exceed 1,500 km.

For these reasons, Jordan was chosen so that its Army will pay the tax of the U.S. imperialist ambitions and will be a target for the bullets instead of the U.S. Army.

Cabinet Discusses Education, Guards Corps Allocation

LD191330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, the Cabinet held a session today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. In this meeting, a report on the situation at the battlefronts was presented to the Cabinet and then the current affairs of the country and political developments in the region were discussed.

In today's session, which was also attended by Minister of Education and Training Parvaresh, by academic, financial, and administrative under secretaries of that ministry, and by Tehran's chief education officer, a report was presented to the Cabinet about the difficulties of that ministry, including the shortage of teaching space. Certain decisions were made on this issue and the situation will be further studied in future sessions.

In today's session, approval was given to allocate 30 billion rials for strengthening the defensive capability of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; 30 million rials to reopen the Bakhtaran Agriculture Institute, and 1.5 billion rials for expenses related to relief work in provinces due to flooding, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

Prime Minister Arrives in Rasht on Inspection Tour

GF191716 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Rasht, Oct. 19, IRNA — Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived here today for an inspection tour of the northern province of Gilan. While here he will also investigate the existing issues and problems as well as the performance of government organisations and offices in the province.

On the question of the delivery of the French-made Super Etendard planes to Iraq, the premier said that announcements considered the move as a threat and blackmail against the Islamic revolution, despite its absurdity.

He added that forces of Islam and the Muslim nation of Iran never relied solely on weapons during the Iraqi imposed war, and that the emphasis had always been upon the devotion and the faith of the Iranian Muslim nation.

The prime minister concluded that the government as a united body was prepared to counter the issue in a revolutionary manner.

Meeting With Gilan Province Officials

GF200704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Excerpts] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in the course of his visit to Gilan Province, yesterday afternoon met with the religious elements and Friday imams of the province and then took part in the joint meeting of the governors, district governors, members of the various bodies of the Islamic Revolution, and the directors general of the province. This meeting was held at the office of the governor general.

In this meeting, Musavi spoke on matters related to government programs, the needs of the country in connection with the importance of management in the Islamic Republic, and the 5-year plan.

He then referred to the plots of the world oppressors and the question of the sale of Super Etendards to Iraq. He said: We have now wide-scale programs for dealing with the problem of the Strait of Hormuz and this will be realized through the faith and the spirit of sacrifice of our people.

Mr Musavi, in the course of his talks with the Gilan Province authorities, referred to the question of the war and while referring to the specific economic conditions of the Western powers during the World War II, said: By the grace of God and the efforts of our sacrifice-giving people, such an economic stringency does not presently exist in our country and we have not felt the need to adopt the policy of war economy. At the moment, the question of introducing the system of strict rationing does not exist in the country and it will not be introduced.

The prime minister added: We have left behind the bitter and dark days of our past. We have, in the course of the imposed war, gained coordination between the army and the Guards Corps and also the people's force. They act jointly in the defense of the revolution and the country. He added: Implementation of the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni Plan can practically turn the country into an impregnable fortress against any plots and this plan can be implemented at any time. Its implementation will naturally help the country and the system of the Islamic Republic to be taken into account at world level.

Bushehr Governor Reports to President 18 October
GF191556 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] Bushehr Governor (Mohammad Taqi Zamaniyan) yesterday morning called on President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and reported to him on the effects of the recent visit by the president to Bushehr Province. He also reported on Bushehr affairs.

The president issued various relevant instructions and asked the governor to convey his best wishes to the people of Bushehr Province.

Seda-ye Iran Radio Cites Clash in Rezvanshahr
GF191122 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] According to a report from Rezvanshahr, a severe clash took place recently between the regime's officials and people of the city. The clash broke out when the city's administrative officials refused to distribute cement and other construction materials in the city. People in turn began chanting slogans against Khomeyni's regime, condemning the oppressive policies of the Islamic Republic. People in Rezvanshahr say that while those requesting construction material are forced to stand in lines for days for one sack of cement the officials of the regime are selling the government allocated materials on the city's black markets.

Defacing of Khomeyni Photographs Reported
GF191120 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT18 Oct 83

[Text] In response to the defacing of Khomeyni's pictures and the writing of antiregime slogans on them and his photographs — which are printed and distributed using public funds — Gholam Reza Aqazedeh, minister of state for executive affairs, has issued a circular ordering government offices to stop distributing Khomeyni's photographs and posters and to stop placing them in windows and on the walls of government organizations.

In the circular, Aqazadeh stresses that photos of the imam of nation and other religious or political figures have become targets of the enemy. As a result of a decision made by the Cabinet on 31 July 1983, all organizations are ordered to refrain from putting such photographs in areas were they are accessible to such individuals. The wave of writing slogans on bank notes and on the photographs of Khomeyni and other officials of the regime continues and torn up photographs of the leader of the regime can be seen all over the streets and sidewalks. The Markazi Bank was recently forced to change a great deal of notes and replace them with new ones because of antiregime slogans written on them.

East Azarbayjan Sends Soldiers to Fronts
GF200631 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1530 GMT 19 Oct 83

[Text] A group of the mobilized brothers of the units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Committee of Meshgin-Shahr, Miyaneh, Osku, and city [name indistinct] were sent to the fronts of wrong against right to fight against the Ba'thist-Zionist agents of Iraq, following a farewell ceremony attended by the ready-on-the-scene people of East Azarbayjan. At this ceremony, the Friday imams of the named cities and districts talked about the imposed war.

100 'Revolutionary Muslims' Reported Executed in Iraq
GF191105 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] The regime which continues its oppression in Iraq has executed 100 revolutionary Muslims in that country. In a report on the matter, the weekly Arabic magazine *Al-Jihad* has written the following:

The said group, which is conposed of Iraqi Muslim Kurds executed for opposing the failing Saddam regime and collaborating with Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, included leaders of a number of Muslim Kurdish tribes living in Iraq's Irbil Province.

According to *Al-Jihad*, the Saddam regime has forced the relatives of those executed to live in exile in other provinces so as to prevent their hatred and indignation from reaching dangerous proportions.

Afghan Mujahidin Cut Off Major Supply Route
GF191106 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 18 Oct 83

[Text] In a major clash with the occupying Soviet forces and the troops of the Kabul regime on the Salang highway, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have succeeded in cutting off one of the major supply routes of the occupiers. A total of 15 tanks, personnel carriers, and other vehicles belonging to the Soviet occupiers and the Kabul regimes' forces were destroyed and 40 troops were killed in the clash, which took place 110 km north of Kabul.